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BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNORState of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF SECRETARYROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

December 21, 2015

Via U.S. Mail and Facsimile: 225-381-7271Kathleen Allen
Administrator
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P. O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821**RE: White Lake Property Advisory Board Opinion Request – Financial Disclosure Requirements**

Dear Ms. Allen:

This is to request an opinion from the Board of Ethics relative to applicability of R.S. 42:1124.2.1 (Financial disclosure; members of boards and commissions) to the members of the White Lake Property Advisory Board ("Board"). This section requires, in part, that each member of a state board or commission, which has the authority to expend, disburse, or invest \$10,000 or more of funds in a fiscal year, shall annually file a financial statement, as provided in the section.

Pursuant to R.S. 56:799.4(A), the Board is created within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries ("Department"). Pursuant to R.S. 56:799.3, the White Lake Advisory Fund ("Fund") was established and is funded through revenues from certain agricultural and mineral leases located within the White Lake Property; fees charged by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission ("Commission") or the Department; monies received by the state and derived from the sale of assets produced by the White Lake Property, and; donations made to the state, Commission, Department, or Board.

Pursuant to R.S. 56:799.4(K), the Board is limited to advising the Commission and Department over the proper management of the White Lake Property. The Board has no authority to expend, disburse, or invest funds. Furthermore, pursuant to R.S. 56:799.6, the Department is the entity with the authority to "administer, control, and manage the White Lake Property."

It is my understanding the Board does not approve expenditures, give advice, or render opinions regarding the expenditure of funds. However, pursuant to R.S. 56:799.3(D), the Legislature may make "no appropriation from the Fund which is inconsistent with the recommendations of the [Board]." It should also be noted that the Board has not held any meetings since June 13, 2013.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated and should you need additional background information, please contact Yolanda Martin, Deputy General Counsel, or Buddy Baker, Administrator, Coastal and Non Game Resources, at (225) 765-2971.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frederick C. Whitrock".

Frederick C. Whitrock
General Counsel